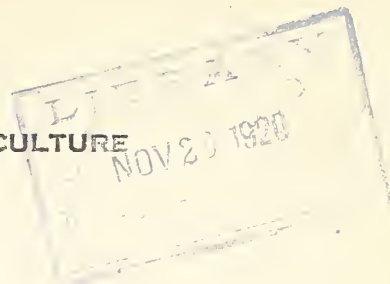


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MARCH, 1918

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D. C.



SUGGESTIONS TO COOPERATORS IN RODENT-CONTROL INVESTIGATIONS

The cooperation of several farmers in each State is being requested by the Bureau of Biological Survey in making more accurate determinations of losses from rodent depredations in grain and other crops than have heretofore been available. Your cooperation in obtaining this information in accordance with the accompanying record forms will be greatly appreciated. The necessity for a greater food supply at home and abroad means that crop production must be increased and losses eliminated. Of the pests that destroy crops, few are more seriously injurious than rodents.

In making the determinations referred to, two plots of EQUAL SIZE will be measured and staked off in a field where conditions are uniform in respect to soil, slope, exposure, planting and handling of crop, and rodent infestation. In grain fields the area of these plots should be 100 acres if practicable; but this is not absolutely necessary. In alfalfa or other crops they may be as small as one acre.

The rodents on one plot (No. 1) will be completely eradicated; on the other (plot No. 2), they will not be disturbed. A strip wide enough to prevent reinvasion during the season will be poisoned all around plot No. 1. Plot No. 1 will be marked off and poisoned by representatives of the Biological Survey, who will also make preliminary observations. During the growth of the crops the cooperator will be relied on to keep both plots under observation. Any rodents which may be noted on plot No. 1 during the experiment should be promptly destroyed, by poison or otherwise, and the circumstances noted on the cooperator's report blank.

The success of the experiment is absolutely dependent on keeping separate the product from each individual plot through the harvesting period and until the final figure for the yield, in pounds or bushels, is obtained from each plot.

